12th May 1952]

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We recommended an increase of 10 per cent and the Central Government agreed to eight annas which works out to about 6¼ per cent."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" The Hon. Minister was saying that the prices of other commodities had increased and hence the price of paddy also was increased. May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that the prices of coconuts, arecanuts and other commodities in Malabar have gone down much and in view of this, is it not fair that the price of paddy also should be reduced? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, that was only a temporary decrease and we can review the price of paddy when the prices of other commodities get stabilised."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Are the Government satisfied that the increased price would go to the actual cultivators and not to the middlemen and the absentee landlords? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We are paying this price to whoever sells the paddy to us."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" The question was whether the Government would take steps to see that this increased price goes to the actual producer and not to somebody else. Instead of saying that they will pay the increased price to whoever comes before them, will the Government take steps to see that the price goes only to the producer? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, under the procurement system, it is only the producer from whom the paddy is procured. Therefore, it can be presumed that the price goes to the producer only."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Whom does the Government understand by the term ' producer '—the man who actually tills the land or the landlord? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Whoever produces paddy, Sir."

Payment of salaries to Members of the Legislature.

* 5 Q.—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi, the then Minister for Finance, stated at a press conference in January 1952, that the newly elected Members of the Assembly, under the new Constitution, will be paid salary as from the day they were declared to have been elected;

(b) whether there is a proposal to pay salaries to Members of the Legislative Assembly as from 21st April 1952 instead of from the date they were declared elected; and

[12th May 1952

(*c*) if the answer to clause (*b*) is in the affirmative, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) There was no press conference held by the Hon. Finance Minister in January 1952.

" (*b*) & (*c*) Under Article 382 (1) of the Constitution, the old Legislative Assembly and Council ceased to exist, and the new Legislative Assembly and Council came into being, with effect from the date on which His Excellency the Governor issued his summons to the new Houses of the State Legislature to meet for their first session. As this summons was issued on 21st April 1952, the Members of the new Legislative Assembly are entitled to their salary only from that date, and till that date the Members of the old Legislature were entitled to draw their salaries."

11-45 a.m. SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" Is there not a separate and specific article in the Constitution of India laying down the manner in which salaries are to be paid to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" No, Sir. There is no provision in the Constitution regarding the payment of salaries and the date from which they should be paid. We are governed by the Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Act of this State."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of any press conference in which the announcement referred to in the question was made? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am not aware of any such conference."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" What is the value to be attached to the representative character of democracy if salaries are paid to Members who have been divested of their representative character? "

THE HON SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is a matter of opinion."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Will the Hon. Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether these newly-elected Members were considered to be Members of the Assembly or not before the 21st April 1952, or do the Government consider that vacancies of membership occurred only after this date as contemplated under section 12 (2) of the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Act."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We are not concerned with the status of the Members before 21st April 1952. The only point that arises in connexion with this question is, when they actually became entitled to the payment of salaries. We are governed by a specific Act and according to that Act, we have come to the decision that the only relevant date is the date of summoning."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN :—" Will the Hon. Minister consider the whole question again in the light of another suggestion that we wish to make, viz., of the three conditions mentioned in section 12 (2) of the Madras Payment of Salaries and Removal of Disqualifications Act, the third condition regarding the occurrence of vacancies should not be taken into account. Is the Hon. Minister prepared to consider the question on those lines? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We have taken legal opinion and we have come to this decision. If fresh and better light is thrown, we will certainly welcome it."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Questions over."

III.—RESOLUTIONS—WAIVER OF NOTICE UNDER RULE 120 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES.

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, I gave notice of two resolutions—one under rule 48 of the Assembly Rules and another non-official resolution—requesting you to waive notice under rule 120 of the Assembly Rules. May I know whether they are coming up before the House to-day? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have not waived notice. If the notice had been waived, it would have been included in the agenda."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" What about the other resolution coming under rule 48, regarding the policy underlying sales tax? May I know whether it is coming? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" If I had included it, it would have been on the agenda."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" When will it be taken up? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" At the proper time."

IV.—PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have to announce to the House that under rule 15 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I have nominated the following four Members of the Assembly to be the Panel of Chairmen for the first session of the Legislative Assembly newly constituted under the Constitution of India :—

(1) Sri S. Ramasamy Naidu.

(2) Mr. W. J. Fernandez.

(3) Janab K. M. Seethi.

(4) Sri P. Venkatasiviah.

V.—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE MADRAS REQUISITIONED LAND (CONTINUANCE OF POWERS) BILL, 1952.

MR. SPEAKER :—" We shall take up the next item on the agenda, The Madras Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) Bill, 1952."

* SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill which is sought to be moved relates to

LEGISLATURE ... TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS